

EI-7290

Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423
Phone: (202)565-1545
Fax: (202)565-9000
Email: rutsonv@stb.dot.gov

RE: Finance Docket No. 35116, RJ Corman Railroad Co., Beech Creek Branch Line
Construction and Operation – between Wallacetown and Gorton, Pennsylvania;
Preliminary Consultation

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Although you are not soliciting public comment at this time, I feel it is important that you know the above referenced request will serve a project that has encountered serious obstacles and fierce opposition. I believe any further study of this request is premature and wasteful of taxpayer funded resources. Consider the following:

- The application for the landfill this rail line would serve has been suspended since October 2006.
- The application for the quarry was deemed deficient in May 2007.
- There is no formal application submitted for a biofuels plant.
- There are four federal agencies on record that have identified environmental issues of concern regarding the project that would be served by this rail line.

If you continue to proceed with this RJ Corman request, it is imperative a full environmental impact statement be prepared in order to assess the environmental impact of this proposal *and* the project it will serve.

Other Nontypical environmental impacts includes greatly increased fire hazard in a fire prone area, noise and nuisance issues in primarily in primarily recreational lands and development area, conversion of many miles of heavily used trails back to rails, and loss of several important historical areas - Peale Tunnel, Moshannon Viaduct and bridge.

Respectfully,

Signature: Harry Pionke

Printed Name: Harry Pionke

Address: 606 W. Hamilton Ave

City, Zip Code: State College, Pa 16801